

An Essay
on
Vaccination
Respectfully submitted to the
Faculty
of the
Homoeopathic Medical College
of
Pennsylvania

On the twenty sixth day of January
one thousand eight hundred & fifty seven

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Vaccination.

This important prophylactic operation ^{is} ~~which being~~ purely homoeopathic in its nature ~~of~~ which old school physicians will have to admit, although they are very loathe to yield to any thing that savours with the only law of cure namely.

"Similia Similibus Curantur"

Although inoculation was known as far back as 1721 vaccination was not performed until 1798 being 77 years that inoculation was the only means known to prevent the ravages of that horrible disease the small pox. ^{in England} the operation of inoculation was first performed on the daughter of Lady Mary Wortley Montague in London in April 1721 being the first

instance in Europe to lead to the
 practice of it and ^{some} ~~the~~ convicts were ^{some}
 made the subjects of the experiment
 in August of the same year.

It appears however to have been known
 before this time in South Wales and in
 the Highlands of Scotland.

Mungo Park while traveling in Africa
 found that inoculation had been
 long practised by the negroes on the
 Guinea coast. Some have ascribed
 it to the Circassians who employed
 it as the means of preserving the beauty
 of their women where inoculation can ^W
 be traced back it seems to have been
 practised by old women before being
 adopted by regular practitioners.

Dr. Nathaniel Boylston was the first

to introduce inoculation in America
unsupported by any but by the counsel
of Dr. Cotton Mather.

While the small pox was making its de-
structive way desolating families
and carrying terror and confusion
in its course Dr. Boylston inoculated
his own son, who was about 13 years of
age and two blacks in the family all of whom
recovered and with complete success
this kindled the fury of the inhabitants
to such a pitch that the authorities
summoned him before them to answer
for his daring practice for it was
strenuously opposed by the other
physicians and clergy some of
whom openly denounced him from
the pulpit and the people not only

abused Dr. Boylston but even extended the abuse to his family.

He underwent repeated examinations and although he invited other practitioners in Boston to visit his patients and judge for themselves he received only insults and threats in reply; for it is a remarkable fact that most of the great ^{discoveries} ~~improvements~~ which have ~~been projected for the benefit of~~ ^{benefitted} mankind have been met at first with more or less popular odium.

And in this country the Legislature of Virginia passed a law ^{imposing} ~~implicating~~ a penalty of one thousand pounds on any and every person who should inoculate for the small pox. And so with Homoeopathy it has many enemies &

particularly with the old school physicians. After the death of Dr. Boylston Dr. Aspinwall undertook it and erected an hospital for patients in
y Brooklyn.

It is said that he inoculated more persons in America than any other physician in his day and he acquired great skill and celebrity in treating this malignant disease. After the year 1788 he was called to keep his hospital open at all times to which great numbers resorted from which they returned with warm expressions of gratitude. He continued this successful treatment till the general introduction of vaccination. He made ample accommodations for enlarged

practice and the prospect of a large fortune when vaccination was introduced which he well knew would blast the prospect of a large income and he would be ruined. But as an honest man he deemed it his duty to inquire into the efficacy of this new substitute. He therefore gave it a trial and found its virtue to be what was represented and relinquished his own establishment.

Dr. Aspinwall had been in the habit of examining the small pox pimple and pustule through glasses to know if it had taken and he said the kine pox came the nearest to it than any other he had ever ~~saw~~ seen.

Any pustulous disease affecting the

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cow may be called the cow-pox and it may arise from over distention of udder from neglect of milking or from the sting of an insect it may also be found in the feet of horses which is of the same nature this grease in the horses heel is called the genuine cow-pox. This vaccine fluid of so much benefit to mankind has its origin from this humble source if it does not tify human pride or medical vanity.

It has
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Dr Jenner in 1798 invented vaccination, this most important prophylactic. The genuine cow-pox appears on the teats of the cow in form of vesicles of a blue color approaching livid. These vesicles are raised at the margin

and depressed at the centre. They are surrounded with inflammation, the fluid contained in them is of a limpid nature the animal is indisposed, the milk is lessened. From these sores the hands of the milkers are affected attended with febrile symptoms and sometimes tumors in the axilla.

The spurious cow-pox being white and persons infected with this heal sooner than if they had the genuine kin-pox and being false will not render the patient invulnerable to the small-pox. Dr. Jenner has elucidated one point of the first importance. It was frequently observed that when this disorder prevailed on a farm some of the persons who contracted it by milking

were rendered insusceptible to the small-pox while others continued liable to that infection? This is owing to the different periods at which the disease was excited in human subjects, if a person has caught the disease while the virus was in an active state he is rendered secure from the contagion while another who received it when it had undergone decomposition is still susceptible to the small-pox. This uncertainty of the prevention is probably the reason why it was not before introduced into practice. From the violent opposition that vaccination met with in consequence of apparent failures it may be doubted whether the public would have ever

adopted the practice had not these
false notions been detected by Dr. Jenner.

To him also we are indebted for
another discovery of great importance,
that, the pustules excited in the
human subject, by vaccine matter
produced a fluid of a similar nature
with that, which was inserted.

This experiment, so true in its results
was never before attempted. This crowns
the labor of Dr. Jenner.

A great number of instances are
on record to prove that farriers
and others who received ~~who received~~
the infection from the heel of the
horse are either partly or wholly
proof against the small-pox.

When Dr. Jenner published an account

at first, of his discoveries this point was enveloped in some degree of obscurity. He conceived that the matter of guaze was an imperfect preservative against the smallpox. This opinion was founded on the following circumstance that farriers either escaped the smallpox or had the disease in a milder form than others, we may reason from this that the virus in such instances possessed all the prophylactic virtue and in others it had lost its specific quality. This variation in effects produced by the virus of the horse inclined Dr. Jenner to think it was modified and underwent some peculiar alteration in the teats of the cow. Therefore he concluded that

it is perfect, when it excites the genuine disease in the cow; but a considerable advantage is derived from its being transferred to the latter animal the nipples of which furnish a more obvious and a more abundant source of the valuable fluid than in its original element, the horse.

The theory that the preservative against variolous contagion is perfect, when it comes from the fountain head and from the hands of Nature is consistent with analogy.

There is another point in vaccine inoculation which has been much controverted, that is the lasting of its effects. there ^{have} been instances known where persons have escaped

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the small-pox for a number of years and yet have proved susceptible to this disease.

When such persons had previously undergone the vaccine disease their apparent security was falsely ascribed to that cause but we have no proof that the cow-pox possessed in the least degree the property of a temporary prophylactic, since it appears not even to retard the eruption of the small-pox where previous infection has been received. By these remarks it is not meant to be asserted that it never superseded or modifies the small-pox, for we have great reason to believe that pure beneficial effects often flow from vaccination but when an eruption of the small pox

actually takes place after vaccine
 inoculation the two diseases frequently
 exist without retarding each other in
 the least degree. It is therefore contra-
 ry to all reason and analogy to consider
 the cow-pox as a mere temporary preser-
 vative it is nothing less than a perfect
 security against that terrible disease.
 Dr. Jenner has recorded a number of
 cases in which persons having taken
 the cow-pox by accidental infection,
 twenty and even fifty years before,
 still continued insusceptible of
 variolous contagion in whatever form
 it was applied.

Cow-pox destroys the susceptibility
 of the small-pox, so small-pox destroys
 that of the cow-pox; but there are some;

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exceptions to this rule, for it certainly, has been proved that a pustule now and then has been excited by the insertion of vaccine virus in those who have had the small-pox and this pustule has been known to yield the genuine virus but it is not certain that the pustule has been perfect in all respects.

It may have been possible that it was deficient, in size and of shorter duration in respect to its areola and of the complexity of its contents.

It has been admitted that such pustules in some instances have yielded effectual virus but this no more than what has often happened in cases where persons who have had the small-pox are

a second time submitted to that infection in the same form.

The artificial cow-pox is much milder than the casual disease in the patient, and a great deal milder than the small-pox even under the form of inoculation.

It does not require medicine, nor much regard to diet, and it may be practised any time in the year.

It does not produce any pustulous eruptions and if any attend vaccination they are owing to some adventitious cause such as small-pox which may coexist with the time of vaccination.

The vaccine vesicle is confined to the parts where the matter is in-

sted it is therefore entirely local but it sometimes happens that eruptions of other kinds attend vaccinations.

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on different
parts of
the body

There are other singularities attending the cow-pox and one is the mildness of the disease which has been used as an argument against that practice the cause being not adequate to the effect, but this will weigh but little when put against actual observation.

The power of the cow-pox rests on a very solid base, much more so than any other prophylactic in the cycle of medical science. The cow-pox is not infectious by effluvia is naturally concluded from its never being

communicated from one person to another in the dairies where the disease is casual and appears in its house form. And the same conclusions may be drawn from its never spreading in a family when only one person is inoculated at a time.

If the symptoms are so mild they frequently occur at a very early period.

Drowsiness which is one of the most common attendants of the disease is often remarked by the parents themselves within forty eight hours after the matter is inserted; it often happens; that the patient is rest less at night; and now and then a case is met with in which there is vomiting.

Professor Williamson recommends

to vaccinate a child almost at any age but he says about the sixth month is the best time the child is as easily nursed at that age as any other and is less liable to get the pustule broken from accidental causes or its own scratching than when older.

He also says it is a matter of the utmost importance to obtain the virus from a healthy child of healthy parents as few remove from the matter obtained from the cow as possible and never from a person that has been vaccinated the second time, as a person that has taken vaccination will never take it again.

as effectual^{ly} as the first. The proper^{ly} place to insert the matter is on the outer portion of the left arm about half way between the elbow and the shoulder, or in other words near the insertion of the deltoid muscle.

To prepare the matter take a portion of the scab and rub it up with a drop of clean water with the point of the lancet, on a piece of glass or other hard and smooth substance until it attains the consistence of cream. Then take a portion of the matter thus prepared, on the point of the lancet, and insert it beneath the cuticle by making three or four sleight punctures close

together then apply more matter and allow it to become dry without being wiped off.

If the operation is successful, on the fourth or fifth day a small red pimple is observable which the next day becomes a little vesicle and increases in size until it reaches about the ^{or} quarter of an inch in diameter. On the seventh day the areola is formed which goes on increasing until the ninth or tenth day when it is about an inch and a half in diameter.

The lymph in the vesicle is first clear then milky afterwards yellow finally dries into

a mahogany brown scab indented near the middle with a hardened point in the centre.

This scab finally dries up and falls off about the seventeenth day leaving a scar with a number of small pointed pits in its inclosure. The vaccine disease is so mild in its course that medical treatment is seldom necessary, but the best means of preventing the development of eruption which sometimes follow vaccination is to administer a dose of homoeopathic sulphur on the evening of the eighth day.